

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 2462

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHAIRMAN FOR MEETING OECD COUNCIL AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

L. MISSION HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY SECRETARIAT THAT SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS INVITED ANTONIO GIOLITTI, ITALIAN MINISTER OF BUDGET, TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR L974. (AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PRACTICE IS FOR ELECTED CHAIRMAN TO HOLD THIS OFFICE FOR ENTIRE CALENDAR YEAR, ALTHOUGH ORDINARILY ONLY SPECIFIC FUNCTION IS TO PRESIDE OVER ONE COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29-30.) MR. GIOLITTI IS SAID TO HAVE "ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE".

2. NEW ZEALAND HAS BEEN INVITED TO PROVIDE FIRST VICE-
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CHAIRMAN AND HAS ACCEPTED; SWEDEN, SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN,

BUT HAS NOT YET REPLIED.

3. OTHER KEY MISSIONS LIKEWISE CONTACTED, AND SECGEN ASSUMES THAT UNLESS HE HEARS OTHERWISE WE APPROVE HIS APPOINTMENTS, AND HE WILL ANNOUNCE THESE NEW OFFICERS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BY COUNCIL BEFORE MAY 7.

4. COMMENT: A) SHIFT TO GIOLITTI CAME WITHOUT NOTICE TO US AFTER SECGEN HAD WAITED SEVERAL WEEKS FOR BRITISH, WHO FINALLY GAVE NEGATIVE ANSWER ON SUPPLYING BRITISH CHAIRMAN. B) CHARGE HAS TOLD SECGEN THAT WE WISH TO REFLECT ON GIOLITTI NOMINATION; THAT SOME MEMBERS WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO XCSS MEETING INITIALLY SOMEWHAT HESITANT; BUT THAT WE WOULD BE COMING BACK TO HIM AFTER GIVING MATTER FURTHER THOUGHT. (THESE REMARKS REFLECTED SOME FEELING THAT GIOLITTI MIGHT NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT OBJECTIVITY, AND THAT ITALIAN POSITION ON PLEDGE AGAINST RESTRICTIVE TRADE MEASURES LEAST PROMISING OF EC COUNTRIES. C) I FEEL THAT INVITATION TO GIOLITTI MAY BE GESTURE RESULTING FROM DETERMINED ITALIAN POSITION ON VETOING VAN LENNEP FOR SECOND TERM IN OFFICE UNLESS HE PROMISES TO RETAIN AN ITALIAN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL. D) ITALY IS ONLY MAJOR MEMBER COUNTRY, APART FROM UK AND JAPAN, WHICH HAS NOT CHAIRED MINISTERIAL COUNCIL AND DESERVES TURN SOMETIME SOON.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY ROME SUPPLY DEPARTMENT WITH COMMENTS BEARING ON GIOLITTI'S ABILITY TO SERVE AS EFFECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL CHAIRMAN AND HIS ABILITY IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS ASAP. WE SUGGEST THAT, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, US SHOULD NOT OBJECT UNLESS OUR RESERVATIONS REASONABLY STRONG.
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